GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:122
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2009
E-AUCTION BY TEA BOARD OF INDIA
Hussain Shri Anwar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board has started e-Auction by discontinuing the traditional tea auction system;

(b) if so, the manner in which this system would be more beneficial and how would this system can help the Tea buyers of Assam; and

(c) the details of method/training incentive being given to the Tea buyers/ officials in the State of Assam in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : The re-designed E-auction system for tea has been inaugurated at the following centers in order to replace the existing manual tea auction system :-

Auction Centres	Inauguration date
Kolkata tea auction centre	19-11-2008
Guwahati tea auction centre	08.12.2008
Siliguri tea auction centre	13.12.2008
Coimbatore tea auction centre	20.12.2008
Cochin tea auction centre	20.12.2008
Coonoor tea auction centre	21.12.2008

(b) : The re-designed e-auction system is more beneficial to auction stakeholders particularly auction buyers including auction tea buyers of Assam as it has the following facilities.

1) Facility for parallel bidding

2) Larger participation of eligible buyers in the bidding process ensuring competition in the fair price discovery mechanism

3) Buyers are able to participate in the bidding process not only from auction hall but also from outside the auction hall

4) Transparency in the pre e-auction mechanism, e-auction mechanism and post e-auction mechanism

(c) : The details are as follows :

i) Customisation of software for User Acceptance Testing (UAT),

ii) Arrangement of primary network connectivity i.e. MPLS VPN network connectivity to six auction centers including Guwahati and to the server hosting station at Mumbai

iii) Circulation of users' manual to all the auction centers including Guwahati indicating step by step direction on how to use software by tea auction stakeholders.

iv) Deployment of six support engineers at six auction centers including Guwahati.

v) Imparting of training to the stakeholders of six auction centres including Guwahati during September-October 2008.

vi) Making necessary arrangements for mock sessions in the six auction centers including Guwahati.